Opening an LPG agency at Jagatsinghpur

2251. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new LPG agency is proposed to be opened at Jagatsinghpur in Orissa in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details of progress made in this regard so far?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The oil industry has decided to set up an LPG distributorship at Jagatsinghpur in Orissa. Selection of a distributor will be made in accordance with the prescribed procedure of advertisement for inviting applications and selection by Oil Selection Board (East).

Shortage of Naphtha in the country

2252. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Naphtha at present in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Naphtha shortage is likely to touch 17.9 lakh tonnes by the year 1990 and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any arrangements are being made by Government to meet the shortage of Naphtha in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Differential in prices of soft coke

2253. DR. R. K. PODDAR:

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for differential in prices of soft coke, which is issued at Rs. 7 per 40 Kg. by the Coal India Limited, in different parts of the country like Delhi at Rs. 23.70; Bhopal at Rs. 40; Calcutta at Rs. 31.76 for 40 Kg.;

(b) what factors are responsible for such differentials; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to stop this exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The ex-colliery price of soft coke has been fixed by the Government for domestic consumption is Rs. 175/- per tonne which works out Rs. 7/- for 40 Kg. Distribution of soft coke, and regulation of its price is within the purview of the State Governments concerned. The retail price paid by domestic consumers of soft coke has various elements over and above the ex-colliery price: transportation cost, handling, distribution charges and other statutory levies as applicable. There is no exploitation of consumers by Coal Companies.

Sick industries in Orissa

2254. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many industries have so far fallen sick in Orissa;

(b) what are the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken for the revival of those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are collected by tht Reserve Bank of India as

per the definition of sickness adopted by it. As per the latest date available from RBI the number of sick units in the State of Orissa was 5871 (9 large units and 5862 SSI units) as at the end of June 1986.

(b) A number of causes, both internal and external, such as mismanagement, diversion of funds, faulty planning at the initial stage, technological obsolescence, market recession, shortage of power and raw materials, industrial relations etc. are responsible for industrial sickness.

(c) To revive the sick industrial units in the country, the Government have taken various steps. The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring system and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time. The banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units on merits of each case. In addition, Government have enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely "The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985" which provides for setting up of a quasi-judicial body designated as the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies in an effective manner. The BIFR has become operational with effect from 15th May, 1987.

Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to RBI, both in the large and small scale sectors.

Shortage of tyres

2255. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of tyres for vehicles in the country and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the estimated shortage of tyres in the country; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to import tyres to meet the shortage and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The installed capacity of automotive tyres in the country is adequate to meet the domestic demand. The total requirement of tyres by 1989-90 is estimated at 23.293 million for which an installed capacity of about 27 million would be required on the basis of 85 per cent of capacity utilisation. As against this, the total capacity installed and approved is of the order of 31 million nos. However, Government may resort to import of tyres if the need arises.

Reducing the Cost of soft coke

2256. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is possible to reduce the cost of soft coke for the ultimate users to encourage its maximum use; and

(b) what is Government's plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The pithead price of soft coke used for domestic consumption is already fixed below its cost of production. There is no proposal to reduce it further.

Sampling of coal

2257. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the present methods of sampling the coal and determining the respective grades;